



The Arden

B R A N D NEW ANCIENTS

5TH & 6TH DECEMBER

WRITTEN BY KAE TEMPEST
DIRECTED BY BRYONY SHANAHAN

Brand New Ancients

THE ARDEN SCHOOL OF THEATRE
YEAR 3 ACTING

5th & 6th December 2024

DIRECTOR
PRODUCER
PRODUCTION MANAGER
STAGE MANAGER
SOUND DESIGN
MOVEMENT DIRECTOR

BRYONY SHANAHAN
PARIS ROGERS
CHRIS BOWLER
GEORGE MCGUKIN
ALEXANDRA FAYE BRAITHWAITE
SIMON JONES

TECHNICIANS

SOUND
LIGHTING
COSTUMER

GEORGE MCGUKIN
CASSIUS MURRAY
EMILY HARBOT

SPECIAL THANKS

KAE TEMPEST, ROBERT OWEN, RACHEL AUSTIN, PAUL BROUGHTON,
JONATHAN CRITCHLEY & EVERYONE AT ARTISTIC SOLUTIONS

DIRECTOR

BRYONY SHANAHAN



Biography

Bryony Shanahan is a theatre director working in the UK and Internationally. Between 2019-2023 she was Joint Artistic Director of the Royal Exchange Theatre, Manchester.

Her directing credits for the Royal Exchange include *Bloody Elle*, *No Pay? No Way! Beginning*, *Let The Right One In*, *Nora: A Doll's House*, *Wuthering Heights*, *Queens of the Coal Age* and *Nothing*. *Bloody Elle* transferred to the Traverse Theatre, Soho Theatre and the West End (Lyric Theatre).

Other directing credits: *Trade* (Young Vic), *Same Team: A Street Soccer Story* and *Enough* (Traverse Theatre), *Chicken Soup* (Sheffield Theatres), *Operation Crucible* (59E59 NYC, Sheffield Crucible, UK Tour), and *Bitch Boxer* (UK Tour). She has also worked at The National Theatre, Noel Coward Theatre (West End) and in Australia, USA, Norway, France and Ireland.

Introduction

Over the last few weeks, I have had the real pleasure of working with a group of third year Acting students at The Arden School of Theatre on *Brand New Ancients*. The brief I was given was to find something that they could all get their teeth into that would also provide them with the opportunity to use the skills they have been learning in their movement and voice classes and that encouraged them to work as an ensemble. After spending some time searching for a text, I became frustrated as everything that I was thinking of would inevitably mean that some people got larger parts and some people would have next to nothing. Then I remembered *Brand New Ancients*. I saw it over 10 years ago and it blew me away. I left with an energy that has informed my practice as an artist ever since - determined to tell human stories with grit and grace and to feel brave enough to be myself. I have taken this ethos with me everywhere. It was formative and defining for me. I thought it was the perfect fit for these 30 young people - it challenges them as story tellers to find a comfort in being themselves, it gives them the opportunity to consider complexity and remain open and empathetic celebrating the brilliance of people and acknowledging the messiness. It allows them to level up technically and deliver an epic story with huge thoughts and to take up space in doing so. And it's a real genuine challenge taking something written for one person and splitting it over multiple people. What they have made is full of heart and the care they are taking over the characters and the more difficult elements of the story is just brilliant. It's also been amazing to see them resonating with the thoughts and words that became so important to me and my peers 10 years ago. I have enjoyed this process so much and am delighted for them to share it with you all.

KAE TEMPEST



Biography

Kae Tempest is a renowned English spoken word artist, poet, recording artist, novelist, and playwright. Born in Westminster, London, in 1985, Tempest's journey began at the BRIT School for Performing Arts and Technology in Croydon. Their talent was recognized early, leading to the prestigious Ted Hughes Award in 2013 for their work "Brand New Ancients."

Tempest's artistic versatility shines through their diverse body of work, encompassing powerful poetry collections, critically acclaimed albums like "Everybody Down" and "Let Them Eat Chaos," and thought-provoking plays. Their performances captivate audiences worldwide, with their raw energy and socially conscious lyrics resonating deeply.

Beyond their artistic achievements, Tempest's influence extends to social and political discourse. Their work fearlessly tackles issues of inequality, injustice, and the human condition, inspiring listeners and readers alike. Kae Tempest's impact on contemporary culture is undeniable, solidifying their position as a leading voice of their generation.

Brand New Ancients

Dive into a world where gods and mortals intertwine, where the streets of South London echo with the echoes of ancient myth. Kae Tempest's Brand New Ancients is a breathtaking journey through love, loss, and the relentless pursuit of meaning. With raw lyricism and a powerful voice, Tempest reimagines the heroic and the mundane, proving that even in the most ordinary lives, extraordinary stories unfold.

Brand New Ancients is a powerful and evocative long-form poem by Kae Tempest. It weaves together contemporary urban life with ancient mythologies, exploring themes of love, loss, ambition, and the human condition. Set against the backdrop of South London, the poem delves into the lives of ordinary people, elevating their experiences to epic proportions.

Tempest's signature style, characterized by raw emotion and vivid imagery, shines through in this work. The poem is a celebration of the human spirit, a reminder that even in the mundane, the divine resides.



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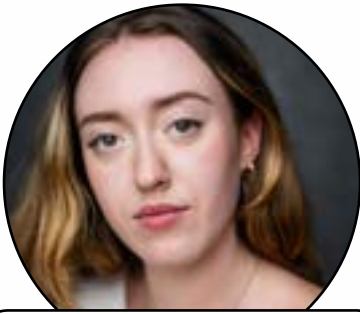
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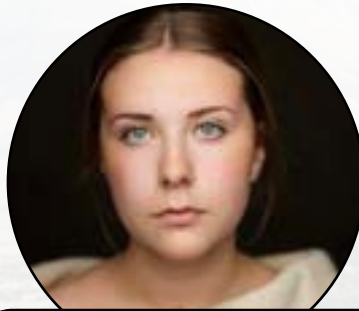
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